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VOLUME XXVIII — May 15, 1950 — NUMBER 30

1. May Opens Busy National Holiday Season
2. Subject Index to GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, VOL. XXVIII

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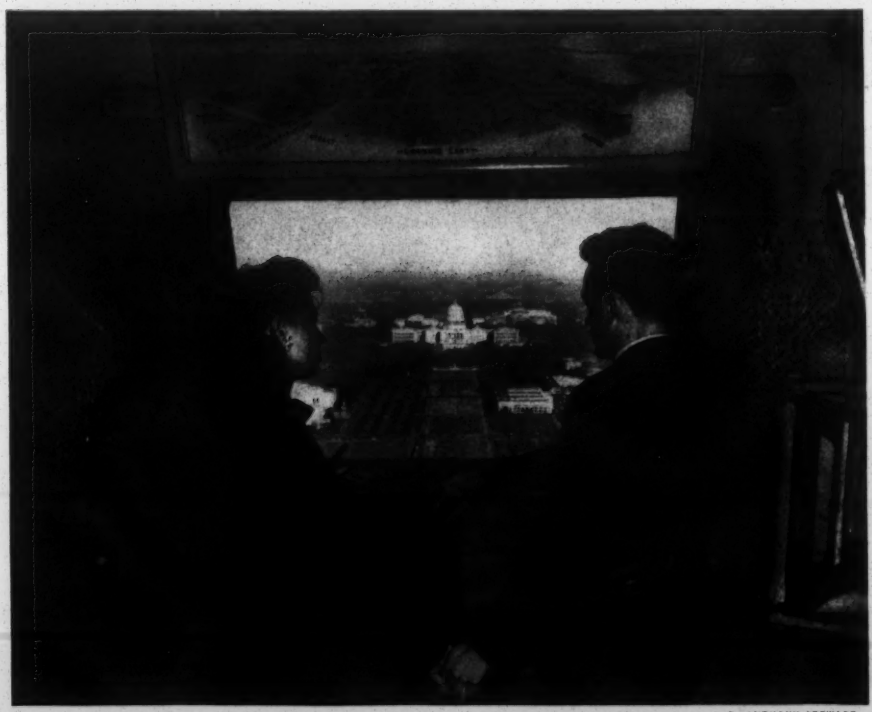

B. ANTHONY STEWART

FROM THE TOP OF WASHINGTON MONUMENT, HOLIDAY VISITORS LOOK AT THE CAPITOL. JULY 4TH (Bulletin No. 1) IS A BUSY DAY FOR SIGHT-SEERS IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

Bulletin No. 1, May 15, 1950

May Opens Busy National Holiday Season

IRAQ, Paraguay, Norway, Cuba, Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan, Afghanistan, and the Union of South Africa have at least one thing in common. Each country celebrates its national holiday this month. Four of these widely separated lands are observing their independence day: Paraguay, on the 14th; Cuba (illustration, back cover), on the 20th; Jordan, on the 25th; and Afghanistan (illustration, inside cover), on the 27th.

On May 2, Iraq celebrated the king's birthday. Constitution Day, on the 17th, is Norway's national holiday. For the Union of South Africa, it is Union Day, May 31. Not a national holiday, but a big occasion in Canada and elsewhere in the British world is Empire Day, May 24.

Philippines Share Fourth of July

Only July and September have more national celebrations than May. Thirteen of the 72 independent countries represented diplomatically in Washington, D. C. (illustration, cover), bring out the bunting in July. On the July list are Canada's Canada Day, July 1; the Independence Day of the United States and of the Philippines, July 4; and Bastille Day in France, July 14.

September holds nine of the festive dates. Except for New Zealand's holiday on the 26th, all September national celebrations are in Latin America. Five of the six Central American republics observe September 15 in common, having gained freedom from Spain on that date in 1821. Panama, the sixth, was part of Colombia until 1903, when it seceded on November 3, now its national holiday.

August is tied with May this year, with seven national holidays apiece. May lost one when Israel's celebration moved to April. The Israeli occasion is fixed on the Jewish calendar, which is official in the new country. The date therefore moves from year to year on the Gregorian calendar, which is followed by the Western world.

August also lost a national holiday to April when Wilhelmina of the Netherlands passed her queenly crown to her daughter Juliana. The Netherlanders hoist their flags highest on the birthday of their ruler, and the shift was from August 31 in 1948 to April 30 in 1949.

England Waits for Good Weather

No less than ten other states on the Washington diplomatic list also have national holidays that change with the ruler. The list includes Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Great Britain, Iran, Iraq, Luxembourg, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, and Siam (Thailand).

All celebrate the rulers' birthdays except Saudi Arabia whose January holiday marks Ibn Saud's ascent to the throne. Great Britain, with a practical eye to holiday weather, observes George VI's birthday in June, though the anniversary actually comes on December 14. Keeping Britain company with June national holidays are Italy, Sweden, and Iceland.

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UMI

MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

SYMBOL OF AFGHAN LIBERTY IS THE INDEPENDENCE COLUMN AT KABUL, AFGHANISTAN'S CAPITAL

The "Fourth of July" for the Texas-size Asian land falls on May 27 (Bulletin No. 1). This is the anniversary of the date in 1747 when an Afghan chieftain named Ahmad Khan unified his country and established himself as its first independent native sovereign. Though Britain occupied Kabul in 1839 and 1879 and controlled Afghanistan's foreign affairs for four decades, the country has remained free to the present day.

Italy: Canal Traffic Vexes Venice's Gondoliers, 1 ill., Nov. 21, 1949.
1949 World Changes Leave Many Loose Ends, 2 ills., Jan. 23, 1950.
Po Valley Oil Discovery Adds Welcome Fuel, 1 ill., Oct. 31, 1949.
Netherlands: Haarlem to Erect Statue to Boy at the Dike, 2 ills., Feb. 6, 1950.
See also Islands and Island Groups: Indonesia, Walcheren.
Norway: Oslo, Norway Capital, Marks 900th Birthday, 1 ill., Apr. 24, 1950.
Spain: Spain Is Europe's Second-Highest Land, 1 ill., map, Apr. 3, 1950.
Scotland: Scotland Plans Power to Revive Highlands, 1 ill., Feb. 27, 1950.
U. N. Eyes Edinburgh for General Assembly, 1 ill., Dec. 5, 1949.
Switzerland: Swiss Study Atom on Icy Alpine Ridge, 1 ill., Nov. 7, 1949.
U. S. S. R. (European): Geographic Maps the "Top of the World," 2 ills., Oct. 17, 1949

NORTH AMERICA

Alaska: Fishwheel, Gold-Rush Town, New Alaska Name, 1 ill., Nov. 14, 1949.
Mt. McKinley May Serve Science in New Role, 1 ill., Mar. 20, 1950.
Canada: Canada Unearths New Asbestos Deposit, 1 ill., Nov. 7, 1949.
Dual Personality Planned for Niagara Falls, 1 ill., Apr. 24, 1950.
French Canoers Finish 2,675-Mile Paddle, 1 ill., Jan. 30, 1950.
St. Lawrence Icebreakers Break 1949 Record, 1 ill., Mar. 27, 1950.
Whitehorse to Be Stage for Arctic Maneuvers, 1 ill., Oct. 10, 1949.
Additional ills.: Mackenzie district, Coppermine village, Oct. 17, 1949. Newfoundland, Street scene, St. John's, Jan. 23, 1950. Ontario, Lynx on Loon Lake, Apr. 24, 1950.
See also Islands and Island Groups: Baffin, Vancouver.
Mexico: Mexico's Fiestas Combine Religion, Gaiety, 2 ills., Jan. 30, 1950.

UNITED STATES

General: America Leads World in Fall-Color Display, 1 ill., Oct. 17, 1949.
Blight Hits Oaks, Valued for Timber, Beauty, 1 ill., Apr. 17, 1950.
Cavemen Given Credit for First Comics, 1 ill., Oct. 31, 1949.
Censuses Count Birds, Fish, Beasts, People, 2 ills., Nov. 7, 1949.
Changing Names Mark Many River Courses, 1 ill., Jan. 23, 1950.
Christmasy Names Spangle the Land, 2 ills., Dec. 19, 1949.
French Canoers Finish 2,675-Mile Paddle, 1 ill., Jan. 30, 1950.
Furs for Coats Come from Ends of Earth, 1 ill., Feb. 20, 1950.
Gulf Fleets Join Florida Shrimp Rush, 1 ill., Mar. 27, 1950.
King Cotton Follows Pioneer Trail West, 1 ill., Apr. 3, 1950.
Large Creatures Head List of Dying Wildlife, 2 ills., Apr. 24, 1950.
Man-Made Ice Improves World's Menus, 1 ill., Jan. 30, 1950.
1949 Engineering Emphasizes TVA Methods, 2 ills., Jan. 16, 1950.
Poor Navajo Lands Have Scenic Riches, 2 ills., Mar. 27, 1950.
Proposed Coins Recall U. S. Mint History, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.
Three Birds Head List of U. S. Favorites, 2 ills., Mar. 20, 1950.
Vampire Lamprey of Great Lakes Faces Eradication Drive (Note following Bulletin No. 2), Nov. 28, 1949.
Armed Forces: Bluie West-One Has Greenland's First Hotel, 3 ills., May 8, 1950.
Mt. McKinley May Serve Science in New Role, 1 ill., Mar. 20, 1950.
Navy Withdrawing from Valiant Midway, 1 ill., May 1, 1950.
Quezon City, Ft. McKinley in Manila News, 1 ill., Oct. 17, 1949.
Rapid City Comes of Age with Air Age, 1 ill., Nov. 21, 1949.
Whitehorse to Be Stage for Arctic Maneuvers, 1 ill., Oct. 10, 1949.
Fish and Wildlife Service: Censuses Count Birds, Fish, Beasts, People, 2 ills., Nov. 7, 1949.
Forest Service: Summer's Forest Fires Took Big Toll, 1 ill., Oct. 3, 1949.
National Park Service areas: Big Bend National Park Preserves Old West, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.
Fontana Wouldn't Come to Mountains (Note following Bulletin No. 3), Feb. 13, 1950.
New York's Castle Clinton to Be Restored, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.
Philadelphia to Have Independence Park, 1 ill., Oct. 31, 1949.
Summer's Forest Fires Took Big Toll, 1 ill., Oct. 3, 1949.
Teton-Jackson Hole Parks Enriched by Gift, 1 ill., 2 maps, Feb. 6, 1950.
Arizona: King Cotton Follows Pioneer Trail West, 1 ill., Apr. 3, 1950.
Poor Navajo Lands Have Scenic Riches, 2 ills., Mar. 27, 1950.
Arkansas: Ill.: Norfork Dam, Jan. 16, 1950.
California: Drought Perils New York's Water Supply, map, Jan. 9, 1950.
Geographic-Palomar 4-Year Sky Survey Starts, 1 ill., Oct. 10, 1949.
King Cotton Follows Pioneer Trail West, 1 ill., Apr. 3, 1950.
Additional ill.: Palomar Observatory, Jan. 9, 1950.
District of Columbia: Ill.: View of Capitol from Washington Monument, May 15, 1950.
Florida: Gulf Fleets Join Florida Shrimp Rush, 1 ill., Mar. 27, 1950.
Additional ill.: Aquarium, Marineland, May 1, 1950.
Illinois: Shawneetowm Unconcerned by Ohio Floods, 1 ill., Feb. 27, 1950.
Indiana: Indiana Marks Sesquicentennial of Territory, 2 ills., Mar. 20, 1950.
Additional ill.: Post office, Santa Claus, Dec. 19, 1949.
Kentucky: Cumberland Gap to Honor Pioneers of 1750, 1 ill., Mar. 13, 1950.
Additional ill.: Tennessee, View of Kentucky from Cumberland Gap, Nov. 14, 1949.
Maine: The Potato Has a Surplus of Legends, Too, 1 ill., map, Feb. 27, 1950.
Maryland: Maryland Plans Survey of Mason-Dixon Line, 1 ill., Apr. 17, 1950.
Michigan: Uranium Prospectors Invade Upper Michigan, 1 ill., Feb. 13, 1950.
Minnesota: Marking Centennial, Minnesota Looks Ahead, 2 ills., Oct. 3, 1949.
Mississippi: Ills.: Cotton picking in Delta region, Apr. 3, 1950. Gulfport, College girls, Apr. 17, 1950. Mississippi River near Natchez, Jan. 30, 1950.
New Jersey: Football Hall of Fame to Rise at Scene of First Game (Note following Bulletin No. 3), Nov. 28, 1949.
New Brunswick Gives Thanks for Streptomycin, 1 ill., Dec. 12, 1949.
Additional ills.: Hudson River docks, Jan. 23, 1950; May 8, 1950.
New Mexico: King Cotton Follows Pioneer Trail West, 1 ill., Apr. 3, 1950.
New Cities Dot Postwar Globe, 1 ill., Mar. 6, 1950.
Poor Navajo Lands Have Scenic Riches, 2 ills., Mar. 27, 1950.
New York: Drought Perils New York's Water Supply, map, Jan. 9, 1950.
Dual Personality Planned for Niagara Falls, 1 ill., Apr. 24, 1950.
Mohawk Valley Marks 200 Years of History, 2 ills., Oct. 24, 1949.
New York's Castle Clinton to Be Restored, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.
Additional ill.: North River waterfront, New York City, Jan. 23, 1950.
North Carolina: Cape Hatteras Light to Return to Service, 1 ill., Dec. 19, 1949.
Fontana Wouldn't Come to Mountains (Note following Bulletin No. 3), Feb. 13, 1950.
Galax Leaves Make Southern Hiking Pay, 2 ills., Nov. 14, 1949.
Additional ill.: Grandfather Mountain, Oct. 17, 1949.
Ohio: Regatta Brings New Fame to Marietta, Ohio, 2 ills., May 1, 1950.
Oregon: Snow Survey Helps West Outwit Drought, 2 ills., Nov. 7, 1949.
Additional ill.: Umatilla National Forest, Oct. 3, 1949.
Pennsylvania: Maryland Plans Survey of Mason-Dixon Line, 1 ill., Apr. 17, 1950.
Philadelphia to Have Independence Park, 1 ill., Oct. 31, 1949.
South Dakota: Rapid City Comes of Age with Air Age, 1 ill., Nov. 21, 1949.
Tennessee: Ills.: At North Carolina border; Cumberland Gap, Nov. 14, 1949.

UMI

INDEX TO GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

Volume XXVIII, No. 1, October 3, 1949, through No. 30, May 15, 1950

AFRICA

Algeria: Motorcade Planned from Algiers to Capetown, 2 ills., Mar. 27, 1950.
Belgian Congo: Belgian Congo Resources Spur Colonial Plan, 2 ills., Nov. 21, 1949.
Motorcade Planned from Algiers to Capetown, 2 ills., Mar. 27, 1950.
Egypt: Egypt Mysteries Further Unveiled at Saqqara, 1 ill., Jan. 16, 1950.
Additional ill.: Sailboats on Suez Canal, Jan. 16, 1950.
See also Asia: Sinai Peninsula.
Gold Coast: Africa's Gold Coast Exports More than Gold, 1 ill., map, Apr. 17, 1950.
Italian Somaliland: Italian Libia and Somaliland to Be Free, 1 ill., Dec. 12, 1949.
Libia: Italian Libia and Somaliland to Be Free, 1 ill., Dec. 12, 1949.
Nigeria: Motorcade Planned from Algiers to Capetown, 2 ills., Mar. 27, 1950.
Northern Rhodesia: Nyasaland, Rhodesias Consider Federation, 1 ill., Nov. 7, 1949.
Nyasaland: Nyasaland, Rhodesias Consider Federation, 1 ill., Nov. 7, 1949.
Rhodesia: *See* Northern Rhodesia; Southern Rhodesia.
South Africa, Union of: South Africa Boers Remember Pioneer Heroes, 1 ill., Feb. 6, 1950.
War and Weather Make Capitals Wander, map, Oct. 24, 1949.
Southern Rhodesia: Nyasaland, Rhodesias Consider Federation, 1 ill., Nov. 7, 1949.
Additional ill.: Shabani asbestos mine, Nov. 7, 1949.
Tanganyika: Kilimanjaro Challenges Ablest Mountaineers, 1 ill., Feb. 13, 1950.
Uganda: Crocodile Hunting Stepped up in Uganda, 1 ill., Mar. 13, 1950.

ASIA

Afghanistan: Afghans Seek Aid in Modernizing Country, 1 ill., map, Dec. 19, 1949.
Additional ill.: Kabul, Independence Column, May 15, 1950.
China: Blockade Stifles Shanghai, Built on Trade, 1 ill., Apr. 3, 1950.
China's Great Wall Being Quarried for Stone, 2 ills., Apr. 17, 1950.
Hong Kong Wedged Between China and Sea, 1 ill., Mar. 20, 1950.
U. S. Consul Leaves Urumchi, Sinkiang, 1 ill., Oct. 24, 1949.
War and Weather Make Capitals Wander, map, Oct. 24, 1949.
Yangtze Divides Chinese Wheat, Rice Eaters, 2 ills., Dec. 12, 1949.
See also Islands and Island Groups: Formosa; Hainan.
French Indochina: Viet Nam Replaces Three Indochinese States, 1 ill., Feb. 27, 1950.
Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan: Dead Sea Is Israel's "Chemical Gold Mine," 1 ill., Oct. 3, 1949.
India: Calcutta Claims First Place in Population, 1 ill., Oct. 17, 1949.
Elephant Makes News Wherever He Goes, 1 ill., Dec. 12, 1949.
Five Small French Areas in India Hold Plebiscite (Note following Bulletin No. 3), Dec. 5, 1949.
Punjab Still Readjusting to Partition, 1 ill., Feb. 20, 1950.
War and Weather Make Capitals Wander, map, Oct. 24, 1949.
Additional ill.: Delhi, Moslem boys and teacher, Jan. 23, 1950.
Iran: Iran's Demavend Dominates Southwest Asia, 1 ill., May 1, 1950.
Iraq: Man's Oldest Town May Reveal Secret Past, 1 ill., Jan. 9, 1950.
Israel: Dead Sea Is Israel's "Chemical Gold Mine," 1 ill., Oct. 3, 1949.
Jammu and Kashmir: Jammu and Kashmir People Await Plebiscite, 1 ill., Jan. 30, 1950
Japan: Fujiyama, "Sacred" Peak, Symbolizes Japan, 1 ill., Mar. 13, 1950.
Japanese Diet Makes Nation Younger, 2 ills., Oct. 31, 1949.
Additional ill.: Fan-maker, Nov. 14, 1949.
Jordan: *See* Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan.
Kashmir: *See* Jammu and Kashmir.
Lebanon: Syria-Lebanon Customs Union Breaks Down, 1 ill., Apr. 3, 1950.
Pakistan: Karachi Serves Pakistan as Port and Capital, 1 ill., Mar. 6, 1950.
Punjab Still Readjusting to Partition, 1 ill., Feb. 20, 1950.
Palestine: Ill.: Shepherd with flock, near Bethlehem, Dec. 19, 1949.
See also Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan, Israel.
Siam: Siam Is Set for Returned King's Coronation, 1 ill., Apr. 24, 1950.
Sinai Peninsula: Mt. Sinai Monastery Reveals Ancient Records, 1 ill., Jan. 23, 1950.
Syria: Syria-Lebanon Customs Union Breaks Down, 1 ill., Apr. 3, 1950.
Thailand: *See* Siam.
Tibet: Tibet, "Roof of the World," Has China Ties, 2 ills., Mar. 6, 1950.
Additional ill.: Porters carrying mastiff in basket, Mar. 6, 1950.
Trans-Jordan: *See* Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan.
Turkey: Alexander's Gordian Knot Site to Be Probed, 1 ill., Mar. 27, 1950.
Turkish Coast Visited by U. S. Fleet, 1 ill., Nov. 21, 1949.
U. S. S. R. (Asiatic): Geographic Maps the "Top of the World." 2 ills., Oct. 17, 1949.
Viet Nam: *See* French Indochina.
Yemen: World Gets Peek Past Yemen Mystery Curtain, map, Nov. 28, 1949.

EUROPE

General: Baltic Sea Is Stormy International Lake, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.
Austria: Rumors Hint Bavaria and Austria May Merge, 2 ills., Jan. 16, 1950.
Belgium: Belgium Votes on King Leopold Issue, 3 ills., Mar. 13, 1950.
See also Africa: Belgian Congo.
British Commonwealth: *See* Africa: Egypt; Nigeria; Northern Rhodesia; Southern Rhodesia; South Africa, Union of; Asia: India; Australia and New Zealand: Australia; Central America: British Honduras; Europe: England, Scotland; Islands and Island Groups: Baffin, Bahama, Barbados, Ceylon, Dominica, Falkland, Hebrides, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Leeward, New Guinea, Shetland, Tonga, Vancouver, West Indies; North America: Canada.
Denmark: Baltic Sea Is Stormy International Lake, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.
Danish Viborg Approaches 1,000-Year Jubilee, 1 ill., Apr. 17, 1950.
Denmark to Honor Weaver of Fairy Tales, 1 ill., Mar. 20, 1950.
See also Islands and Island Groups: Greenland.
England: England's Coventry Is Three-Sided Symbol, 1 ill., Nov. 28, 1949.
Mastiffs Become Scarce Amid Canine Plenty, 1 ill., Mar. 6, 1950.
Soccer Rates High as Favorite Sport, 1 ill., Oct. 24, 1949.
Additional ill.: Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London, Oct. 17, 1949.
Finland: *See* Islands and Island Groups: Turku.
France: Rice Revives Camargue, France's "Wild West," 1 ill., Oct. 10, 1949.
Additional ill.: Lascaux Cave, Animal drawing, Oct. 31, 1949.
French Empire: *See* Asia: French Indochina; India.
Germany: Baltic Sea Is Stormy International Lake, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.
Bonn Bustles as Germany's New Capital, 1 ill., Oct. 3, 1949.
Oberammergau Prepares 1950 Passion Play, 1 ill., Mar. 13, 1950.
Rumors Hint Bavaria and Austria May Merge, 2 ills., Jan. 16, 1950.
Greece: "Battle of Children" Is Greek War Aftermath, 2 ills., Feb. 13, 1950.
Greek Border Areas at Peace but Uneasy, 2 ills., Dec. 12, 1949.

Boundaries—*Continued*
Syria-Lebanon Customs Union Breaks Down, 1 ill., Apr. 3, 1950.
Additional ills.: United States-Canada, Niagara Falls, Apr. 24, 1950. United States-Mexico, Santa Elena Canyon, May 8, 1950.
Capitals: Bonn Bustles as Germany's New Capital, 1 ill., Oct. 3, 1949.
War and Weather Make Capitals Wander, map, Oct. 24, 1949.
Government: Bonn Bustles as Germany's New Capital, 1 ill., Oct. 3, 1949.
Five Small French Areas in India Hold Plebiscite (Note following Bulletin No. 3), Dec. 5, 1949.
Guam Shifts from Naval to Civilian Rule, 2 ills., Oct. 10, 1949.
Jammu and Kashmir People Await Plebiscite, 1 ill., Jan. 30, 1950.
Jap-Built Formosa City Is "China" Capital, 2 ills., Jan. 9, 1950.
A New United States Rises in Indonesia, 2 ills., Nov. 28, 1949.
1949 World Changes Leave Many Loose Ends, 2 ills., Jan. 23, 1950.
Nyasaland, Rhodesias Consider Federation, 1 ill., Nov. 7, 1949.
Polyglot Surinam Gets Self-Government, map, Feb. 13, 1950.
Punjab Still Readjusting to Partition, 1 ill., Feb. 20, 1950.
Tibet, "Roof of the World," Has China Ties, 2 ills., Mar. 6, 1950.
West Indies "Dominion" Nearer Realization, 3 ills., Dec. 5, 1949.
Treaties and Leagues: Baltic Sea Is Stormy International Lake, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.
United Nations: Italian Libia and Somaliland to Be Free, 1 ill., Dec. 12, 1949.
Kilimanjaro Challenges Ablest Mountaineers, 1 ill., Feb. 13, 1950.
1949 World Changes Leave Many Loose Ends, 3 ills., Jan. 23, 1950.
U. N. Eyes Edinburgh for General Assembly, 1 ill., Dec. 5, 1949.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Aircraft and Aviation: Bluie West-One Has Greenland's First Hotel, 3 ills., May 8, 1950.
Navy Withdrawing from Valiant Midway, 1 ill., May 1, 1950.
Planes Rain U. S. Visitors on Tropic Cuba, 1 ill., Feb. 6, 1950.
Rapid City Comes of Age with Air Age, 1 ill., Nov. 21, 1949.
Additional ills.: New Guinea, Transport planes, Wahgi Valley, Jan. 30, 1950.
Airports: Bluie West-One Has Greenland's First Hotel, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.
Animals: Ills.: Argentina, Tehuelche woman on horse, Patagonia, Jan. 23, 1950. Egypt, Camels at pyramids, Jan. 16, 1950. Guam, Carabao, Oct. 10, 1949. Libia, Native with camel, Near Bengasi, Dec. 12, 1949. Pennsylvania, Horse and wagon, Apr. 17, 1950. Southern Rhodesia, Donkey team, Bulawayo, Nov. 7, 1949. Spain, Donkey, Apr. 3, 1950. Syria, Pack train, Antakya (Antioch), Nov. 21, 1949. United States, Mules pulling wagon in Cumberland Gap area, Mar. 13, 1950. Venezuela, Horses, Caracas, Feb. 20, 1950. Virgin Islands, Donkey, Charlotte Amalie, Oct. 24, 1949.
Aqueducts: Ill.: Syria, Antakya (Antioch), Nov. 21, 1949.
Automobiles: Motorcade Planned from Algiers to Capetown, 2 ills., Mar. 27, 1950.
Additional ills.: Australia, Dandenong Mountains, Dec. 19, 1949. Chile, Valparaíso, May 1, 1950. Formosa, Jan. 9, 1950. Germany, Oberammergau, Mar. 13, 1950. Italy, Fiat plant, Turin, Oct. 31, 1949. New Mexico, Los Alamos, Mar. 5, 1950. Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo, Nov. 7, 1949.
Bells: Bells Proclaim Man's Supreme Moments, 2 ills., Oct. 17, 1949.
Boats and Ships: Canal Traffic Vexes Venice's Gondoliers, 1 ill., Nov. 21, 1949.
St. Lawrence Icebreakers Break 1949 Record, 1 ill., Mar. 27, 1950.
Additional ills.: Brazil, Sailboats, Baía, Oct. 3, 1949. China, Sampans on Hwang Pu, Shanghai, Apr. 3, 1950. Egypt, Sailboats on Suez Canal, Jan. 16, 1950. Greenland, Kayaks, Angmagssalik, May 8, 1950. Illinois, Rowboats on flooded Ohio River, Shawneetown, Feb. 27, 1950. Indonesia, Sailboats, Makassar, Jan. 23, 1950. Japan, Mar. 13, 1950. Mississippi, Towboat, Giles Cutoff, Jan. 30, 1950. New York, At North River piers, New York City, Jan. 23, 1950. Siam, Sampans, Bangkok, Apr. 24, 1950. Yukon, Sternwheeler on Lewes River, Oct. 10, 1949.
Bridges: 1949 Engineering Emphasizes TVA Methods, 2 ills., Jan. 23, 1950.
Additional ills.: New York, Across Mohawk River and Barge Canal, Little Falls, Oct. 24, 1949. Ohio, Over Ohio and Muskingum Rivers at Marietta, May 1, 1950.
Canals: Canal Traffic Vexes Venice's Gondoliers, 1 ill., Nov. 21, 1949.
Additional ills.: Egypt, Sailboats on Suez Canal, Jan. 16, 1950. New York, Barge Canal at Little Falls, Oct. 24, 1949.
Canoes: French Canoers Finish 2,675-Mile Paddle, 1 ill., Jan. 30, 1950.
Carts: Ills.: Guam, Carabao cart, Oct. 10, 1949. Newfoundland, St. Johns, Jan. 23, 1950.
Elevators: Ill.: Brazil, Street elevator, Baía, Oct. 3, 1949.
Highways and Roads: Motorcade Planned from Algiers to Capetown, 2 ills., Mar. 27, 1950.
Additional ills.: Cuba, Malecón, Havana, May 15, 1950. Cumberland Gap, Nov. 14, 1949. New York Mohawk Valley, Oct. 24, 1949.
Lighthouses: Cape Hatteras Light to Return to Service, 1 ill., Dec. 19, 1949.
Radio: Radio Voice Heralds Virgin Islands Advance, 2 ills., Oct. 24, 1949.
Railroads: Ill.: New York, Along Mohawk River through Little Falls, Oct. 24, 1949.
Sleighs: Ill.: Turku archipelago, May 8, 1950.
Trucks: Ills.: Afghanistan, On caravan trail, Dec. 19, 1949. Belgium, Ghent, Mar. 13, 1950. Newfoundland, St. Johns, Jan. 23, 1950.
Tunnels: New York's Castle Clinton to Be Restored, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.

COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, AND AGRICULTURE

Agriculture: Brazil, Guatemala Losses Hurt Coffee Trade, 2 ills., Nov. 28, 1949.
Patagonia Gets Attention from Buenos Aires, 1 ill., Jan. 23, 1950.
The Potato Has Surplus of Legends, Too, 1 ill., map, Feb. 27, 1950.
Pumpkin by Any Other Name Tastes as Good, 2 ills., Nov. 21, 1949.
Rice Revives Camargue, France's "Wild West," 1 ill., Oct. 10, 1949.
Snow Survey Helps West Outwit Drought, 2 ills., Nov. 7, 1949.
Additional ills.: Germany, Harvesting hay, Bavaria, Jan. 16, 1950. Japan, Threshing rice, Oct. 31, 1949. St. Kitts, Cane fields, Dec. 5, 1949. Tibet, Irrigated fields, Gyangtze, Mar. 6, 1950.
Asbestos: Canada Unearths New Asbestos Deposit, 1 ill., Nov. 7, 1949.
Bread: Ill.: Syria, Baker displaying, Aleppo, Apr. 3, 1950.
Cattle: Rice Revives Camargue, France's "Wild West," 1 ill., Oct. 10, 1949.
Spain Is Europe's Second-Highest Land, 1 ill., map, Apr. 3, 1950.
Additional ill.: United States, Grazing in national forest, Nov. 7, 1949.
Cinchona: Ill.: Ecuador, Boy carrying bark, Oct. 10, 1949.
Coffee: Brazil, Guatemala Losses Hurt Coffee Trade, 2 ills., Nov. 28, 1949.
Coins and Coinage: Proposed Coins Recall U. S. Mint History, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.
Conservation: Censuses Count Birds, Fish, Beasts, People, 2 ills., Nov. 7, 1949.
Drought Perils New York's Water Supply, map, Jan. 9, 1950.
Snow Survey Helps West Outwit Drought, 2 ills., Nov. 7, 1949.
Cotton: King Cotton Follows Pioneer Trail West, 1 ill., Apr. 3, 1950.
Additional ill.: Africa, Native girl wearing cotton print, Gold Coast, Apr. 17, 1950.
Crocodiles: Crocodile Hunting Stepped up in Uganda, 1 ill., Mar. 13, 1950.
Eggs: Ills.: California, Packaging, Turlock, Jan. 9, 1950. Denmark, Packing plant, Skive, Apr. 17, 1950.
Factories: Ills.: Italy, Fiat automobile plant, Turin, Oct. 31, 1949. New York, Glove factory, Johnstown; Factories, Little Falls, Oct. 24, 1949.
Fans: Ancient Fans Still Stir a Cooling Breeze, 1 ill., Nov. 14, 1949.
Farms: Ills.: Maine, Aroostook County, Feb. 27, 1950. Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Dutch barns, Apr. 17, 1950. Shetland Islands, Feb. 20, 1950.

UMI

Texas: Big Bend National Park Preserves Old West, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.
King Cotton Follows Pioneer Trail West, 1 ill., Apr. 3, 1950.
Utah: Poor Navajo Lands Have Scenic Riches, 2 ills., Mar. 27, 1950.
Virginia: Galax Leaves Make Southern Hiking Pay, 2 ills., Nov. 14, 1949.
Wyoming: Teton-Jackson Hole Parks Enriched by Gift, 1 ill., 2 maps, Feb. 6, 1950.
See also Islands and Island Groups: Aleutian, Guam, Hawaii, Midway, Puerto Rico, Virgin; *and* North America: Alaska.

CENTRAL AMERICA

British Honduras: West Indies "Dominion" Nearer Realization, 2 ills., Dec. 5, 1949.
Guatemala: Brazil, Guatemala Losses Hurt Coffee Trade, 2 ills., Nov. 28, 1949.
Panama: Guaymi Indians of Panama Enjoy April Fiesta, 2 ills., Apr. 24, 1950.
Additional ill.: Girl wearing fireflies on shoulder, Dec. 19, 1949.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina: Patagonia Gets Attention from Buenos Aires, 1 ill., Jan. 23, 1950.
Brazil: Bahia, Brazil, Celebrates 400th Birthday, 2 ills., Oct. 3, 1949.
Brazil, Guatemala Losses Hurt Coffee Trade, 2 ills., Nov. 28, 1949.
British Guiana: Map, Feb. 13, 1950.
Chile: Shoestring Chile Is Child of Geography, 2 ills., May 1, 1950.
Colombia: Ill.: Coffee racks, Nov. 28, 1949.
Ecuador: Ecuador Knows Constant Threat of Nature, 1 ill., map, Oct. 10, 1949.
French Guiana: Map, Feb. 13, 1950.
Patagonia: *See* Argentina.
Peru: Ill.: Church bell, Cuzco, Oct. 17, 1949.
Surinam: Polyglot Surinam Gets Self-Government, map, Feb. 13, 1950.
Venezuela: Venezuela May Prove Land of Hope for DP's, 2 ills., Feb. 20, 1950.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Australia: Australia Suggests Boomerang for Olympics, 1 ill., Apr. 3, 1950.
River Project to Water Dry Australian Acres, 1 ill., Dec. 19, 1949.

ISLANDS AND ISLAND GROUPS

Aleutian: Come-and-Go Islets Common in Pacific, 1 ill., Dec. 5, 1949.
Baffin: Ill.: Eskimo family, Oct. 17, 1949.
Bahama: Bahamas Radar Sites to Dot Columbus Route, 1 ill., map, Oct. 31, 1949.
Barbados: West Indies "Dominion" Nearer Realization, 2 ills., Dec. 5, 1949.
Bikini: *See* Marshall.
Celebes: *See* Indonesia, Republic of.
Ceylon: Dam Project in Ceylon Reclaims Lost Land, 1 ill., map, Nov. 14, 1949.
Cuba: Planes Rain U. S. Visitors on Tropic Cuba, 1 ill., Feb. 6, 1950.
Additional ill.: View of Havana from Morro Castle drawbridge, May 15, 1950.
Dominica: West Indies "Dominion" Nearer Realization, 2 ills., Dec. 5, 1949.
Eniwetok: *See* Marshall.
Falkland: British Antarctic Scientists Await Rescue, 1 ill., Nov. 14, 1949.
Formosa: Jap-Built Formosa City Is China Capital, 2 ills., Jan. 9, 1950.
Gilbert and Ellice: South Seas Are Paradise—with Reservations, 1 ill., Jan. 23, 1950.
Greenland: Bluie West-One Has Greenland's First Hotel, 3 ills., May 8, 1950.
Guam: Guam Shifts from Naval to Civilian Role, 2 ills., Oct. 10, 1949.
Hainan: Hainan Island Now Chinese Communist Goal, 2 ills., Feb. 20, 1950.
Haiti: Haiti Beats Drums for Trade and Tourists, 1 ill., map, Mar. 6, 1950.
Hawaii, Territory of: Ill.: Soccer team, Honolulu, Oct. 24, 1949.
Hebrides: Stone cottage, Feb. 27, 1950.
Hong Kong: Hong Kong Wedged Between China and Sea, 1 ill., Mar. 20, 1950.
Indonesia, Republic of: A New United States Rises in Indonesia, 2 ills., Nov. 28, 1949.
1949 World Changes Leave Many Loose Ends, 3 ills., Jan. 23, 1950.
Additional ills.: Celebes, Native wrapping package in palm leaf, Jan. 9, 1950.
Jamaica: West Indies "Dominion" Nearer Realization, 3 ills., Dec. 5, 1949.
Java: *See* Indonesia, Republic of.
Leeward: West Indies "Dominion" Nearer Realization, 3 ills., Dec. 5, 1949.
Marianas: *See* Guam.
Marshall: Atom Bomb Again to Blast Battered Eniwetok, map, Jan. 16, 1950.
Midway: Navy Withdrawing from Valiant Midway, 1 ill., May 1, 1950.
New Guinea: Sheep Airlift in Bird-of-Paradise Land, 2 ills., Jan. 30, 1950.
Philippines, Republic of the: Quezon City, Ft. McKinley in Manila News, 1 ill., Oct. 17, 1949.
War and Weather Make Capitals Wander, map, Oct. 24, 1949.
Puerto Rico: "Operation Bootstrap" Helps Puerto Rico, 2 ills., Feb. 27, 1950.
St. Kitts: West Indies "Dominion" Nearer Realization, 3 ills., Dec. 5, 1949.
Shetland: Shetland Up-Helly-Aa Marks Viking Heritage, 1 ill., Feb. 20, 1950.
Sumatra: *See* Indonesia, Republic of.
Tonga: Come-and-Go Islets Common in Pacific, 1 ill., Dec. 5, 1949.
Trinidad and Tobago: West Indies "Dominion" Nearer Realization, 3 ills., Dec. 5, 1949.
Turku: Ill.: Sleighing between islands, May 8, 1950.
Vancouver: Ill.: Totem Poles, Alert Bay, Nov. 28, 1949.
Virgin: Radio Voice Heralds Virgin Islands Advance, 2 ills., Oct. 24, 1949.
Walcheren: Ill.: Dike, Feb. 6, 1950.
West Indies: West Indies "Dominion" Nearer Realization, 3 ills., Dec. 5, 1949.
See also Bahama, Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Virgin.

POLAR REGIONS

Antarctic: British Antarctic Scientists Await Rescue, 1 ill., Nov. 14, 1949.
Arctic: Bluie West-One Has Greenland's First Hotel, 3 ills., May 8, 1950.
Geographic Maps the "Top of the World," 2 ills., Oct. 17, 1949.
Whitehorse to Be Stage for Arctic Maneuvers, 1 ill., Oct. 10, 1949.

GEOGRAPHY, MAPS, AND MAP MAKING

Map Making: Geographic Maps the "Top of the World," 2 ills., Oct. 17, 1949.
Geographic-Palomar 4-Year Sky Survey Starts, 1 ill., Oct. 10, 1949.
Maps: Afghanistan, Dec. 19, 1949. Bahama Islands, Oct. 31, 1949. Ceylon, Nov. 14, 1949. Ecuador, Oct. 10, 1949. French West Africa, showing French Guinea, Gold Coast, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Rio de Oro, and Senegal, Apr. 17, 1950. Haiti, Mar. 6, 1950. Maine, Aroostook County, Feb. 27, 1950. Marshall Islands, Jan. 16, 1950. New York, Hudson Valley from Albany to New York City, Jan. 9, 1950. South Africa, Union of, Oct. 24, 1949. South-West Africa, Oct. 24, 1949. Spain, Apr. 3, 1950. Surinam, Feb. 13, 1950. Wyoming, Grand Tetons and Jackson Hole, Feb. 6, 1950. Yemen, Nov. 28, 1949.

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

Bases, Air and Military: Bluie West-One Has Greenland's First Hotel, 3 ills., May 8, 1950.
Guam Shifts from Naval to Civilian Rule, 2 ills., Oct. 10, 1949.
Quezon City, Ft. McKinley in Manila News, 1 ill., Oct. 17, 1949.
Boundaries: Baltic Sea Is Stormy International Lake, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.
1949 World Changes Leave Many Loose Ends, 3 ills., Jan. 23, 1950.

Buildings, Government and Commercial: Bluie West-One Has Greenland's First Hotel, 3 ills., May 8, 1950.
Additional ills.: Brazil, Municipal plaza, Baía, Oct. 3, 1949. China, Shanghai, Apr. 3, 1950; Inn beside Great Wall, Apr. 17, 1950; Waterfront, Hong Kong, Mar. 20, 1950. Cuba, Havana, May 15, 1950. Dist. of Columbia, National capitol, Washington, May 15, 1950. Germany, Hotel, Oberammergau, Mar. 13, 1950. Illinois, Bank, Shawneetown, Feb. 27, 1950. Indiana, Memorial Plaza, Indianapolis; Territorial capitol, Vincennes, Mar. 20, 1950; Post office, Santa Claus, Dec. 19, 1949. New Mexico, Los Alamos, Mar. 6, 1950. New York, Skyscrapers, New York City, Jan. 23, 1950; May 8, 1950. Norway, National Theater, Oslo, Apr. 24, 1950. Pennsylvania, Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Oct. 31, 1949. South Africa, Union of, Pretoria, Feb. 6, 1950. Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo, Nov. 7, 1949. Virgin Islands, Bluebeard's Castle Hotel, Charlotte Amalie, Oct. 24, 1949.
Castles and Palaces: Ill.: Scotland, Edinburgh Castle, Dec. 5, 1949.
Children: "Battle of Children" Is Greek War Aftermath, 2 ills., Feb. 13, 1950.
Additional ills.: Australia, Father and son holding boomerangs, Apr. 3, 1950. Baffin Island, Eskimo children, Oct. 17, 1949. Brazil, Arecuna Indian boy, Jan. 16, 1950. Ceylon, By Lion Rock, Sigiriya, Nov. 14, 1949. China (2 ills.), Yunnan, Dec. 12, 1949. India, Jan. 23, 1950. Denmark, Child on rocks, Copenhagen, Mar. 20, 1950. Ecuador, Boy carrying cinchona bark, Oct. 10, 1949. Germany, Girls knitting, Bavaria, Jan. 16, 1950. Greece, Child watching spinner; Boys with fishermen, Kavalla, Dec. 12, 1949. Greenland, Eskimo children, May 8, 1950. Guam, Boys on buffalo cart, Oct. 10, 1949. Jammu and Kashmir, Boy, Jan. 30, 1950. Japan, Oct. 31, 1949. Minnesota, Boy and girl at melodeon, Northwest Angle, Oct. 3, 1949. North Carolina, Girl on beach, Cape Hatteras, Dec. 19, 1949. Panama, Being inoculated, Utivé, Apr. 24, 1950. Sumatra, Nov. 28, 1949. Switzerland, Gruyères, Nov. 7, 1949. Texas, Boy with squash, Nov. 21, 1949. Turkey, Mar. 27, 1950. United States, Boys on wagon, Cumberland Gap area, Mar. 13, 1950; Children with squash, Nov. 21, 1949; Listening to shell, Feb. 13, 1950; Navajo boys, Mar. 27, 1950. Viet Nam, At Pnompenh, Feb. 27, 1950.
Churches, Temples, and Mosques: Danish Viborg Approaches 1,000-Year Jubilee, 1 ill., Apr. 17, 1950.
Man's Oldest Town May Reveal Secret Past, 1 ill., Jan. 9, 1950.
Mt. Sinai Monastery Reveals Ancient Records, 1 ill., Jan. 23, 1950.
Additional ills.: Greece, Bombed church, Kalavrita, Feb. 13, 1950. Peru, Church, San Cristóbal, Oct. 17, 1949. Siam, Temples, Bangkok, Apr. 24, 1950. Syria, Tekkiye Mosque, Damascus, Apr. 3, 1950, Tibet, Buddhist shrine, Gyangtze, Mar. 6, 1950. Viet Nam, Buddhist shrine, Pnompenh, Feb. 27, 1950.
City Planning: New Cities Dot Postwar Globe, 1 ill., Mar. 6, 1950.
Oslo, Norway Capital, Marks 900th Birthday, 1 ill., Apr. 24, 1950.
Quezon City, Ft. McKinley in Manila News, 1 ill., Oct. 17, 1949.
Shawneetown Unconcerned by Ohio Floods, 1 ill., Feb. 27, 1950.
War and Weather Make Capitals Wander, map, Oct. 24, 1949.
Clothing and Costumes: Mexico's Fiestas Combine Religion, Gaiety, 2 ills., Jan. 30, 1950.
Additional ills.: Africa, Native girl wearing cotton print, Gold Coast, Apr. 17, 1950. China, Loi women wearing brass headdresses, Feb. 20, 1950; Yunnan Province, Dec. 12, 1949. India, Sikhs, Amritsar, Feb. 20, 1950. Indonesia, Woman, Jakarta (Batavia), Nov. 28, 1949. Netherlands, Skaters, Volendam, Feb. 6, 1950. New Guinea, Headdresses, Wahgi Valley, Jan. 30, 1950. Tibet, Women displaying coins in hair, Mar. 6, 1950. Viet Nam, At Pnompenh, Feb. 27, 1950.
Cowboys: Ill.: South Dakota, Rodeo, Belle Fourche, Nov. 21, 1949.
Dams: Dam Project in Ceylon Reclaims Lost Land, 1 ill., map, Nov. 14, 1949.
Fontana Wouldn't Come to Mountains (Note after Bulletin No. 3), Feb. 13, 1950.
Karachi Serves Pakistan as Port and Capital, 1 ill., Mar. 6, 1950.
1949 Engineering Emphasizes TVA Methods, 2 ills., Jan. 23, 1950.
Additional ill.: Arkansas, Norfork Dam, Jan. 16, 1950.
Dancers and Dancing: Ills.: Mexico, "Dance of the Old Men," Pátzcuaro, Jan. 30, 1950. Scotland, Street dancing, Edinburgh, Dec. 5, 1949.
Dwellings: Ills.: Baffin Island, Tent, Oct. 17, 1949. Belgian Congo, Village near Lake Kivu; Woman building mud house, Nov. 21, 1949. Canada, St. Johns, Newfoundland, Jan. 23, 1950. China, Yurts, Urumchi, Oct. 24, 1949. France, Fireplace in farmhouse, Camargue, Oct. 10, 1949. Guam, Thatched-roof houses, Agaña, Oct. 10, 1949. Indonesia, Bamboo house, Sumatra, Nov. 28, 1949. Japan, Interior, Oct. 31, 1949. Maine, Farmhouses, Aroostook County, Feb. 27, 1950. Scotland, Stone cottage on Eriskay, Hebrides, Feb. 27, 1950. Shetlands, Stone farmhouses, Feb. 20, 1950. Venezuela, Thatched-roof dwellings, Quiriquire, Feb. 20, 1950.
Educational Institutions: Football Hall of Fame to Rise at Scene of First Game (After Bul. 3), Nov. 28, 1949.
New Brunswick Gives Thanks for Streptomycin, 1 ill., Dec. 12, 1949.
Additional ills.: Hawaii, Mid-Pacific Institute, soccer team, Honolulu, Oct. 24, 1949. India, Moslem schoolboys, Delhi, Jan. 23, 1950. Mississippi, Gulf Park College girls, Gulfport, Apr. 17, 1950. Peru, University of Cuzco, Oct. 17, 1949. Venezuela, University, Caracas, Feb. 20, 1950.
Expeditions: British Antarctic Scientists Await Rescue, 1 ill., Nov. 14, 1949.
French Canoers Finish 2,675-Mile Paddle, 1 ill., Jan. 30, 1950.
Mt. Sinai Monastery Reveals Ancient Records, 1 ill., Jan. 23, 1950.
1949 Expeditions Probed Land, Sea, and Air, 1 ill., Jan. 9, 1950.
Additional ill.: Tibet, Porter carrying mastiff in basket, Mar. 6, 1950.
See also National Geographic Society.
Fairs and Expositions: Haiti Beats Drums for Trade and Tourists, 1 ill., map, Mar. 6, 1950.
Fans: Ancient Fans Still Stir a Cooling Breeze, 1 ill., Nov. 14, 1949.
Fire Fighters: Summer's Forest Fires Took Big Toll, 1 ill., Oct. 3, 1949.
Food: *See* Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture: Bread, Eggs, Flour, Potatoes, Rice, Seafood, Squash, Sugar, Wheat; and Natural History: Beetles.
Forts and Fortifications: New York's Castle Clinton to Be Restored, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.
Quezon City, Ft. McKinley in Manila News, 1 ill., Oct. 17, 1949.
Additional ills.: Ceylon, Lion Rock citadel, Sigiriya, Nov. 14, 1949. Cuba, Morro Castle drawbridge, Havana, May 15, 1950.
Games and Sports: Australia Suggests Boomerang for Olympics, 1 ill., Apr. 3, 1950.
Football Hall of Fame to Rise at Scene of First Game (Note following Bulletin No. 3), Nov. 28, 1949.
Regatta Brings New Fame to Marietta, Ohio, 2 ills., May 1, 1950.
Soccer Rates High as Favorite Sport, 1 ill., Oct. 24, 1949.
Additional ills.: Netherlands, Skaters, Volendam, Feb. 6, 1950. North Carolina, Hiking, Oct. 17, 1949; On Tennessee border, Nov. 14, 1949. South Dakota, Rodeo, Belle Fourche, Nov. 21, 1949.
Gateways and Walls: China's Great Wall Being Quarried for Stone, 2 ills., Apr. 17, 1950.
Additional ills.: Cuba, Morro Castle, Havana, May 15, 1950. Nigeria, Mud walls, Kano, Mar. 27, 1950. Philippines, Gateway, Fort San Felipe, Cavite, Oct. 17, 1949. Sinai Peninsula, St. Catherine's Monastery, Jan. 23, 1950.
Gypsies: Rice Revives Camargue, France's "Wild West," 1 ill., Oct. 10, 1949.
Additional ill.: Chile, May 1, 1950.
Historical Persons: *Alexander the Great*: Alexander's Gordian Knot Site to Be Probed, 1 ill., Mar. 27, 1950.
Andersen, Hans Christian: Denmark to Honor Weaver of Fairy Tales, 1 ill., Mar. 20, 1950.
Beethoven, Ludwig von: Bonn Bustles as Germany's New Capital, 1 ill., Oct. 3, 1949.
Johnson, Sir William: Mohawk Valley Marks 200 Years of History, 2 ills., Oct. 24, 1949.
Marquette, Jacques: French Canoers Finish 2,675-Mile Paddle, 1 ill., Jan. 30, 1950.
Holidays and Celebrations: Baía, Brazil, Celebrates 400th Birthday, 2 ills., Oct. 3, 1949.
Christmasy Names Spangle the Land, 2 ills., Dec. 19, 1949.
Cumberland Gap to Honor Pioneers of 1750, 1 ill., Mar. 13, 1950.
Danish Viborg Approaches 1,000-Year Jubilee, 1 ill., Apr. 17, 1950.
Denmark to Honor Weaver of Fairy Tales, 1 ill., Mar. 20, 1950.
Guaymi Indians of Panama Enjoy April Fiesta, 2 ills., Apr. 24, 1950.

UMI

Fish and Fisheries: Gulf Fleets Join Florida Shrimp Rush, 1 ill., Mar. 27, 1950.
Additional ills.: Alaska, Fishwheel on Yukon River, Nov. 14, 1949. Greece, Fishermen with octopuses Kavalla, Dec. 12, 1949.
Flax: Ill.: Belgium, Curing flax along Lys River, Mar. 13, 1950.
Flour: Ill.: Minnesota, Mill, Minneapolis, Oct. 3, 1949.
Food: *See* Bread, Eggs, Flour, Potatoes, Rice, Seafood, Squash, Sugar, Wheat; and Natural History: Beetles.
Foundries: Ill.: England, Bell foundry, London, Oct. 17, 1949.
Furs: Furs for Coats Come from Ends of Earth, 1 ill., Feb. 20, 1950.
Gloves: Mohawk Valley Marks 200 Years of History, 2 ills., Oct. 24, 1949.
Gold: Africa's Gold Coast Exports More than Gold, 1 ill., map, Apr. 17, 1950.
Fishwheel, Gold-Rush Town, New Alaska Name, 1 ill., Nov. 14, 1949.
Whitehorse to Be Stage for Arctic Maneuvers, 1 ill., Oct. 10, 1949.
Harbors and Ports: Blockade Stifles Shanghai, Built on Trade, 1 ill., Apr. 3, 1950.
Hong Kong Wedged Between China and Sea, 1 ill., Mar. 20, 1950.
Karachi Serves Pakistan as Port and Capital, 1 ill., Mar. 6, 1950.
St. Lawrence Icebreakers Break 1949 Record, 1 ill., Mar. 27, 1950.
Additional ills.: Brazil, Baía, Oct. 3, 1949. Cuba, Havana, May 15, 1950. New Jersey, Hudson River docks, Jan. 23, 1950. New York City, North River docks, Jan. 23, 1950; Upper bay, May 8, 1950.
Hydroelectric Plants: *See* Power, Hydroelectric.
Ice: Man-Made Ice Improves World's Menus, 1 ill., Jan. 30, 1950.
Irrigation: Dam Project in Ceylon Reclaims Lost Land, 1 ill., map, Nov. 14, 1949.
Karachi Serves Pakistan as Port and Capital, 1 ill., Mar. 6, 1950.
Patagonia Gets Attention from Buenos Aires, 1 ill., Jan. 23, 1950.
River Project to Water Dry Australian Acres, 1 ill., Dec. 19, 1949.
Additional ills.: Tibet, Fields near Gyangtze, Mar. 6, 1950. Yemen, Coffee on terraced hillsides Nov. 28, 1949.
Laces: Ill.: Belgium, Picture of Bruges in lace, Mar. 13, 1950.
Lumber and Lumbering: Ill.: Michigan, Sawing tree near L'Anse, Feb. 13, 1950.
Markets: *See* Stores and Bazaars.
Mills: Ill.: Minnesota, Flour mill, Minneapolis, Oct. 3, 1949.
Mines and Minerals: Belgian Congo Resources Spur Colonial Plan, 2 ills., Nov. 21, 1949.
Whitehorse to Be Stage for Arctic Maneuvers, 1 ill., Oct. 10, 1949.
See also Asbestos, Gold, Oil, Potassium, Silver, Uranium.
Nylon: Ill.: Germany, Girls knitting socks, Bavaria, Jan. 16, 1950.
Octopuses: *See* Seafood.
Oil: Po Valley Oil Discovery Adds Welcome Fuel, 1 ill., Oct. 31, 1949.
Packaging: Package Industry Becomes Big Business, 2 ills., Jan. 9, 1950.
Potassium: Dead Sea Is Israel's "Chemical Gold Mine," 1 ill., Oct. 3, 1949.
Potatoes: The Potato Has a Surplus of Legends, Too, 1 ill., map, Feb. 27, 1950.
Power, Hydroelectric: Dam Project in Ceylon Reclaims Lost Land, 1 ill., map, Nov. 14, 1949
Dual Personality Planned for Niagara Falls, 1 ill., Apr. 24, 1950.
River Project to Water Dry Australian Acres, 1 ill., Dec. 19, 1949.
Scotland Plans Power to Revive Highlands, 1 ill., Feb. 27, 1950.
Pumpkins: *See* Squash.
Rattan: Ill.: Indonesia, Shipping rattan, Makassar, Jan. 23, 1950.
Reclamation: Dam Project in Ceylon Reclaims Lost Land, 1 ill., map, Nov. 14, 1949.
Haarlem to Erect Statue to Boy at the Dike, 2 ills., Feb. 6, 1950.
Refrigeration: Man-Made Ice Improves World's Menus, 1 ill., Jan. 30, 1950.
Rice: Rice Revives Camargue, France's "Wild West," 1 ill., Oct. 10, 1949.
Yangtze Divides Chinese Wheat, Rice Eaters, 2 ills., Dec. 12, 1949.
Additional ill.: Japan, Threshing, Oct. 31, 1949.
Salt: Dead Sea Is Israel's "Chemical Gold Mine," 1 ill., Oct. 3, 1949.
Additional ill.: Bahamas, Salt from sea brine, Great Inagua, Oct. 31, 1949.
Seafood: Gulf Fleet Joins Florida Shrimp Rush, 1 ill., Mar. 27, 1950.
Additional ill.: Greece, Octopus catch, Kavalla, Dec. 12, 1949.
Sheep: Sheep Airlift in Bird-of-Paradise Land, 2 ills., Jan. 30, 1950.
Additional ills.: Arizona, In Canyon de Chelly, Mar. 27, 1950. Palestine, Near Bethlehem, Dec. 19, 1949.
Shrimp: *See* Seafood.
Silver: Proposed Coins Recall U. S. Mint History, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.
Spinning: Ill.: Greece, Woman spinning, Dec. 12, 1949.
Squash: Pumpkin by Any Other Name Tastes as Good, 2 ills., Nov. 21, 1949.
Stores and Bazaars: Ills.: Indiana, General store housing post office, Santa Claus, Dec. 19, 1949. Jammu and Kashmir, Wood-carvers' bazaar, Jan. 30, 1950. West Indies, Market, Dominica, Dec. 5, 1949.
Sugar: Planes Rain U. S. Visitors on Tropic Cuba, 1 ill., Feb. 6, 1950.
Additional ill.: West Indies, Cane fields, St. Kitts, Dec. 5, 1949.
Tobacco: Planes Rain U. S. Visitors on Tropic Cuba, 1 ill., Feb. 6, 1950.
Additional ill.: Puerto Rico, Fields covered with cheesecloth, Feb. 27, 1950.
Umbrellas: Ill.: China, Girls making paper umbrellas, Dec. 12, 1949.
Uranium: Belgian Congo Resources Spur Colonial Plan, 2 ills., Nov. 21, 1949.
Uranium Prospectors Invade Upper Michigan, 1 ill., Feb. 13, 1950.
Wheat: Yangtze Divides Chinese Wheat, Rice Eaters, 2 ills., Dec. 12, 1949.
Additional ill.: Turkey, Women pounding wheat, Mar. 27, 1950.

PEOPLES AND CULTURES

Archeology: Alexander's Gordian Knot Site to Be Probed, 1 ill., Mar. 27, 1950.
Caveman Given Credit for First Comics, 1 ill., Oct. 31, 1949.
Egypt Mysteries Further Unveiled at Saqqara, 1 ill., Jan. 16, 1950.
Man's Oldest Town May Reveal Secret Past, 1 ill., Jan. 9, 1950.
Mt. Sinai Monastery Reveals Ancient Records, 1 ill., Jan. 23, 1950.
World Gets Peek Past Yemen Mystery Curtain, map, Nov. 28, 1949.
Architecture: Ills.: Belgium, Tower and gabled buildings, Ghent, Mar. 13, 1950. Chile, Valparaíso, May 1, 1950. China, Hong Kong, Mar. 20, 1950. Dist. of Columbia, National Capitol, May 15, 1950. Germany, Hotel, Oberammergau, Mar. 13, 1950. India, Victoria Memorial, Calcutta, Oct. 17, 1949. Indiana, Memorial Plaza, Indianapolis: Territorial capitol, Vincennes, Mar. 20, 1950. Italy, Venice, Nov. 21, 1949. New Jersey, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, Dec. 12, 1949. Nigeria, Sculptured mud walls, Kano, Mar. 27, 1950. Norway, National Theater, Oslo, Apr. 24, 1950. Pennsylvania, Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Oct. 31, 1949; Pennsylvania Dutch barns, Apr. 17, 1950. Puerto Rico, San Juan, Feb. 27, 1950. Sinai Peninsula, St. Catherine's Monastery, Jan. 23, 1950. Southern Rhodesia, Modern buildings, Bulawayo, Nov. 7, 1949. Switzerland, Gruyères, Nov. 7, 1949. Tibet, Gyangtze, Mar. 6, 1950. Venezuela, University, Caracas, Feb. 20, 1950.
Arts and Handicrafts: Ancient Fans Still Stir a Cooling Breeze, 1 ill., Nov. 14, 1949.
Caveman Given Credit for First Comics, 1 ill., Oct. 31, 1949.
Indian Students Relearn Totem-Carving Art, 1 ill., Nov. 28, 1949.
Additional ills.: Barbados, Woman crocheting, Dec. 5, 1949. Belgium, Bruges pictured in lace, Mar. 13, 1950. China, Making umbrellas, Yunnan, Dec. 12, 1949. Germany, Girls knitting, Bavaria, Jan. 16, 1950. Greece, Woman spinning, Dec. 12, 1949. Jammu and Kashmir, Wood-carver, Jan. 30, 1950. New York, Glove-maker, Johnstown, Oct. 24, 1949.
See also Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture: Fans, Gloves, Laces, Umbrellas.

Birds: Bahamas Radar Sites to Dot Columbus Route, 1 ill., map, Oct. 31, 1949.
Censuses Count Birds, Fish, Beasts, People, 2 ills., Nov. 7, 1949.
Lemming Migration Drives Snowy Owl South, 1 ill., Feb. 6, 1950.
Navy Withdrawing from Valiant Midway, 1 ill., May 1, 1950.
Sheep Airlift in Bird-of-Paradise Land, 2 ills., Jan. 30, 1950.
Three Birds Head List of U. S. Favorites, 2 ills., Mar. 20, 1950.
Additional ill.: Antarctic, Penguin, Nov. 14, 1949.
See also Wildlife.
Camels: Ills.: Egypt, At pyramids, Jan. 16, 1950. Libia, Near Bengasi, Dec. 12, 1949.
Carabaos: Ill.: Guam, Oct. 10, 1949.
Cattle: Ills.: United States, Grazing, Nov. 7, 1949; Roping calf, South Dakota, Nov. 21, 1949.
Crocodiles: Crocodile Hunting Stepped up in Uganda, 1 ill., Mar. 13, 1950.
Deer: Censuses Count Birds, Fish, Beasts, People, 2 ills., Nov. 7, 1949.
Dogs: Mastiffs Become Scarce Amid Canine Plenty, 1 ill., Mar. 6, 1950.
Additional ills.: China, Urumchi, Oct. 24, 1949. Greenland, Puppies, May 8, 1950. United States, Irish setter, Mar. 20, 1950.
Donkeys: Ills.: Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo, Nov. 7, 1949. Spain, Apr. 3, 1950. Virgin Islands, Charlotte Amalie, Oct. 24, 1949.
Dolphins: Dolphin and Porpoise to Aid Sub Research, 1 ill., May 1, 1950.
Elephants: Elephant Makes News Wherever He Goes, 1 ill., Dec. 12, 1949.
Elk: Ill.: United States, Bull wapiti elk, Apr. 24, 1950.
Ferns: Ill.: Australia, In Dandenong Mountains, Dec. 19, 1949.
Fireflies: *See* Beetles.
Fish: Gulf Fleets Join Florida Shrimp Rush, 1 ill., Mar. 27, 1950.
Vampire Lamprey of Great Lakes Faces Eradication Drive (Note following Bulletin No. 2), Nov. 28, 1949.
Additional ills.: Florida, In tank, Marineland, May 1, 1950. Virgin Islands, Fish vendor, Charlotte Amalie, Oct. 24, 1949.
See also Aquariums.
Forests: *See* Trees and Forests.
Galax: Galax Leaves Make Southern Hiking Pay, 2 ills., Nov. 14, 1949.
Grasshoppers: Insects Are Welcome Items on Jungle Menus, 1 ill., Jan. 16, 1950.
Holly: Mr. Holly Helps Mrs. H. Bring Holiday Cheer (Note following Bulletin No. 2), Dec. 19, 1949.
Horses: Ills.: Argentina, Tehuelche woman riding, Patagonia, Jan. 23, 1950. Cuba, Feb. 6, 1950. Pennsylvania, Apr. 17, 1950. South Dakota, Belle Fourche, Nov. 21, 1949. Turku archipelago, May 8, 1950. Venezuela, Caracas, Feb. 20, 1950.
Insects: *See* Beetles, Grasshoppers.
Lemmings: Lemming Migration Drives Snowy Owl South, 1 ill., Feb. 6, 1950.
Lynx: Ill.: Canada, On Loon Lake, Ontario, Apr. 24, 1950.
Minks: Ill.: Minnesota, Fur farm, Feb. 20, 1950.
Mules: Ill.: United States, Cumberland Gap area, Mar. 13, 1950.
Octopuses: Ill.: Greece, Catch on dock, Kavalla, Dec. 12, 1949.
Porpoises: Dolphin and Porpoise to Aid Sub Research, 1 ill., May 1, 1950.
Raccoons: Warm-Blooded Hibernators Mystify Scientists, 1 ill., Dec. 5, 1949.
Sheep: Sheep Airlift in Bird-of-Paradise Land, 2 ills., Jan. 30, 1950.
Additional ill.: Palestine, Bethlehem, Dec. 19, 1949.
Shells: Shell Collecting Vies with Stamps as Hobby, 2 ills., Feb. 13, 1950.
Trees and Forests: America Leads World in Fall-Color Display, 1 ill., Oct. 17, 1949.
Blight Hits Oaks, Valued for Timber, Beauty, 1 ill., Apr. 17, 1950.
Lebanon Plans to Prevent Cedars' Extinction, 1 ill., Dec. 5, 1949.
Summer's Forest Fires Took Big Toll, 1 ill., Oct. 3, 1949.
Additional ills.: Guam, Oct. 10, 1949. Michigan, Men felling, near L'Anse, Feb. 13, 1950. Pennsylvania, Independence Square, Philadelphia, Oct. 31, 1949. United States, On Black Mt. slopes, Cumberland Gap, Nov. 14, 1949; National forest; In Cascade Mts., Oregon, Nov. 7, 1949.
See also Holly.
Wapiti: *See* Elk.
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Teton-Jackson Hole Parks Enriched by Gift, 1 ill., 2 maps, Feb. 6, 1950.
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Cataracts: *See* Waterfalls.
Caves: Ill.: France, Lascaux Cave, Oct. 31, 1949.
Cliffs: Ills.: Formosa, Jan. 9, 1950. Wyoming, In Grand Teton National Park, Feb. 6, 1950.
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Earthquakes: Ecuador Knows Constant Threat of Nature, 1 ill., map, Oct. 10, 1949.
Fjords: Ill.: Greenland, Bluie West-One, May 8, 1950.
Floods: Shawneetown Unconcerned by Ohio Floods, 1 ill., Feb. 27, 1950.
Glaciers: Ill.: Greenland, Bluie West-One, May 8, 1950.
Ice: St. Lawrence Icebreakers Break 1949 Record, 1 ill., Mar. 27, 1950.
Additional ill.: Netherlands, Skaters, Volendam, Feb. 6, 1950.
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Cumberland Gap to Honor Pioneers of 1750, 1 ill., Mar. 13, 1950.
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Dual Personality Planned for Niagara Falls, 1 ill., Apr. 24, 1950.
French Canoers Finish 2,675-Mile Paddle, 1 ill., Jan. 30, 1950.
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UMI

Holidays and Celebrations—*Continued*
Indiana Marks Sesquicentennial of Territory, 2 ills., Mar. 20, 1950.
Marking Centennial, Minnesota Looks Ahead, 2 ills., Oct. 3, 1949.
May Opens Busy National Holiday Season, 3 ills., May 15, 1950.
Mexico's Fiestas Combine Religion, Gaiety, 2 ills., Jan. 30, 1950.
Shetland Up-Helly-Aa Marks Viking Heritage, 1 ill., Feb. 20, 1950.
Siam Is Set for Returned King's Coronation, 1 ill., Apr. 24, 1950.
Indians, American: French Canoers Finish 2,675-Mile Paddle, 1 ill., Jan. 30, 1950.
Guaymi Indians of Panama Enjoy April Fiesta, 2 ills., Apr. 24, 1950.
Indian Students Relearn Totem-Carving Art, 1 ill., Nov. 28, 1949.
Mexico's Fiestas Combine Religion, Gaiety, 2 ills., Jan. 30, 1950.
Mohawk Valley Marks 200 Years of History, 2 ills., Oct. 24, 1949.
Poor Navajo Lands Have Scenic Riches, 2 ills., Mar. 27, 1950.
Rapid City Comes of Age with Air Age, 1 ill., Nov. 21, 1949.
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Universities and Colleges: *See* Educational Institutions.
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Weapons: Atom Bomb Again to Blast Battered Eniwetok, map, Jan. 16, 1950.
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NATURAL HISTORY

Animals: *See* under name of animal, and under Wildlife.
Aquariums: New York's Castle Clinton to Be Restored, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.
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Warm-Blooded Hibernators Mystify Scientists, 1 ill., Dec. 5, 1949.
Beetles: Insects Are Welcome Items on Jungle Menus, 1 ill., Jan. 16, 1950.
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Rivers—*Continued*
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Seas: Baltic Sea Is Stormy International Lake, 1 ill., May 8, 1950.
Dead Sea Is Israel's "Chemical Gold Mine," 1 ill., Oct. 3, 1949.
Snow: Snow Survey Helps West Outwit Drought, 2 ills., Nov. 7, 1949.
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Ecuador Knows Constant Threat of Nature, 1 ill., map, Oct. 10, 1949.
Fujiyama, "Sacred Peak," Symbolizes Japan, 1 ill., Mar. 13, 1950.
Waterfalls: Dual Personality Planned for Niagara Falls, 1 ill., Apr. 24, 1950.
Weather: America Leads World in Fall-Color Display, 1 ill., Oct. 17, 1949.
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War and Weather Make Capitals Wander, map, Oct. 24, 1949.

SCIENCE

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Atomic Energy: Atom Bomb Again to Blast Battered Eniwetok, map, Jan. 16, 1950.
New Cities Dot Postwar Globe, 1 ill., Mar. 6, 1950.
Swiss Study Atom on Icy Alpine Ridge, 1 ill., Nov. 7, 1949.
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King Cotton Follows Pioneer Trail West, 1 ill., Apr. 3, 1950.
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Dolphin and Porpoise to Aid Sub Research, 1 ill., May 1, 1950.
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Zoology: Warm-Blooded Hibernators Mystify Scientists, 1 ill., Dec. 5, 1949.

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL GROSVENOR

ON INDEPENDENCE DAY (May 20), PATRIOTIC CUBANS MILL THROUGH HAVANA'S MORRO CASTLE (foreground), OVER THE MALECÓN (boulevard across water), AND IN THE HIGH-DOMED CAPITOL